

Tele-Visions

BY THORTON KANE

Is there any real need for critics. At the risk of bringing the wrath of fellow scribblers down upon us, we think there is not a television critic, or a critic of any of the other arts, is mainly a convenience to the public. A TV critic is free to devote most of his time to the comparative analysis of television shows. This does not necessarily mean that he is better equipped than others to judge the merits of the medium, only that he has more time to do so, and therefore has a wider knowledge of his subject.

At one time or another, most readers have been outraged by a critic's stupidity and lack of understanding. We have all disagreed with critical comments on various programs. Over the years, the critic emerges not as an all-powerful authority but as just one of the public, sometimes right, more often, wrong.

There is a motion picture legend about a young woman movie editor for a mid-western paper, who invariably forecast the success of each picture by her critical evaluation. After several years of her accurate forecasting, a large motion picture company hired her, at an extravagant salary, to come to Hollywood and help them make pictures that sell. She arrived soon after and started to work. The outcome, of course, was vastly different from what was expected. By taking her out of her typical small-town environment, by making her wealthy, the movies had destroyed her average-American viewpoint. She became a "critic," where once she had been one of the public.

Critics in general might take some advice from the young lady. We must remember we are only one of the viewing public. After all, didn't the critics say Shakespeare would never last!

WELL, WHATDAYA KNOW—"Devil in Paradise" is the title of a new series set for January airing, to star Cameron Mitchell . . . January 4th, CBS-TV's "Person to Person" will visit the homes of Phillip, Dennis and Lindsay Crosby . . . James Garner seems to have won his breach of contract suit against WBros, but it's doubtful that they'll kiss and make up, considering the amount of \$8 WB must pay for damages . . . Loretta Young's memoirs—titled boringly "Things I Had to Learn"—is set for publication in March . . . KTLA will carry "The World of Suzie Wong" premiere Thursday, Dec. 15, at 9:00 p.m., with Jack Linkletter emceeing . . . Perry Como's January 20 guest will be Peggy Lee . . . Rumor has it that all is not friendly on the "Candid Camera" set. Meaning Allan Funt and Gofrey are not "that way" about each other . . . Rex Harrison, as suspected, removed himself from the guest list of the Bing Crosby spec, and has been replaced by Italian tenor Aldo Monaco. Seems Rex wanted to "talk" his songs, and the boss wanted something more lyrical . . . Looks as if Frankie Laine's "Rawhide" stint paid off. He's being paged for a "Bat Masterson" . . . NBC-TV will air two 1-hour specs in January. On Jan. 3, "A string of Beads" by W. Somerset Maugham, and Jan. 21, "Immortality Becomes Allard" by J. P. Marquand. Keep it up, fellas . . .

DEBBIE, EDDY ARE TOGETHER AGAIN . . . ON TELEVISION

Debbie and Eddy are back together . . . at least for an hour and a half . . . in the RKO technicolor production "Bundle of Joy," premiering on KHJ TV's MILLION DOLLAR MOVIE presentation during the week of December 12th. The movie will be seen Monday through Thursday at 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. . . . in COLOR.

14 Million Children To Be Added to Schools

Some 14 million children will be added to the elementary and high school population by 1980 . . . "The final outcome between freedom and totalitarianism will most likely be decided by the quality of education these children receive, not how many rockets and nuclear warheads they inherit.

O'Brien on KTTV's Playhouse Program

Talented actress Margaret O'Brien stars in the dramatic story of a small traveling circus—"Ring of Steel," a Shulton Holiday Playhouse presentation to be seen Tuesday, at 8 p.m., on KTTV, Channel Eleven.

In the true story, "Ring of Steel," Miss O'Brien plays the daughter of a carnival owner "sauri peq uodn ajuoo seq oqaa" In an attempt to save the tent show the father hires the "world's best knife-thrower," played by handsome newcomer Gerald Charleboise.

However, the new act fails to draw the desired crowds, and in a desperate attempt to save the show, Ruth (Miss O'Brien) learns how to throw knives and matches her skill against the expert, who has fallen deeply in love with his pupil.

The contests bring the circus out of the red, but meanwhile Ruth has become a better knife-thrower than her teacher.

In the smashing climax with psychological overtones that will stand your hair on end, he tries to prove his skill with Miss O'Brien as his human target.

Margaret O'Brien has been a favorite of American audiences ever since she was a child—one of the few in show business who have cracked the teenage barrier between the child phenomenon and the adult star emerging into a wholly new and brilliant career. Her best remembered juvenile role was as the neurotic child of wartime in "Journey for Margaret." For this she won critical acclaim here and abroad.

The Shulton Holiday Playhouse is a series of five dramatic half-hour programs featuring top stars and stories and being shown every Tuesday at 8 p.m. during the holiday season on KTTV.

HOLIDAY FIRES Thousands of holiday home fires are caused each year by faulty wiring in electrical decorations, reports the Greater Los Angeles Chapter National Safety Council. All such items, including those imported from other countries, should not be purchased unless they bear the Underwriter Laboratories seal of approval.



O'BRIEN

Santa Anita Feature Races on Channel 2

For the sixth consecutive year, KNXT and the CBS Television Pacific Network will telecast the Saturday Feature Races of the 55-day 26th winter racing season from Santa Anita Park for 11 weeks beginning Saturday, December 31. It was announced by Program Director Leon Drew.

The fabulous racing oval in Arcadia has an estimated purse program of \$3,365,000 which includes 37 stakes for \$1,170,000 in added money. The brilliant winter racing program will feature telecasts of four traditional "Hundred Grand" classics, the Santa Anita Handicap, Santa Anita Maturity, Santa Anita Derby and San Juan Capistrano Handicap.

The tenth running of the \$25,000-Added Malibu Stakes will launch the Saturday feature Races. This race is designed to bring along soon-to-be 4-year-olds that are pointing for the rich estimated \$170,000 Maturity. Last year's winner of this seven-furlong race was Ole'ols with William Boland aboard.



SKIP HOMIER stars as Dan Raven, full hour mystery show seen every Friday night on Channel 4.



DANTE, the guy who owns a night club in which things happen, is played by Howard Duff Mondays, Channel 4, 9:30 p.m.



THE JACK BENNY PROGRAM—Jack and his date Barbara Nichols have a midnight snack in the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Stewart during tonight's show at 9 p.m. on Channel 2.

SMALL NETS Small nets often pick up 2 million plankton in ocean water in 10 minutes time.



THE WIZARD OF OZ—Judy Garland helps the Scarecrow (Ray Bolger) in the two-hour colorcast of the MGM film classic, Sunday at 6 p.m. on Channel 2.

Use Press classified ads to buy, rent or sell. Phone DA 5-1515.

RADIO M

Sunday and Monday
Ernest Borgnine
"PAY OR DIE"
Also
Rita Moreno
"THIS REBEL BREED"

Tuesday - Wednesday
Jacques Bergerac
"THE HYPNOTIC EYE"
Also
Sheila Carol
"SKI-TROOP ATTACK"

DRIVE-IN THEATER
Redondo Beach Blvd.
DA 4-2664

Mercer, Welk, Freberg and Others on Special Telecast

Singer Johnny Mercer will emcee a nostalgic review of West Coast musical history and welcome a sparkling array of Hollywood stars during KTTV's live telecast of Music City's gala "Opening Night, Sunset and Vine," tonight 8-9 p.m., Channel Eleven.

Mercer will offer a friendly salute to the many top recording artists who achieved fame right in the Sunset and Vine neighborhood: Nat "King" Cole, Lawrence Welk, Frankie Laine and many others. Lawrence Welk will be there in person to introduce his newest hit record, and Songstress Dodie Stevens heads a list of guest artists who'll join the orchestra in performing great hits of the past three decades.

Galaxy of Hollywood stars on hand to reminisce with popular Johnny Mercer will include Stan Freberg, Andre Previn, Billy Joughn, Nelson Riddle, Billy May, and the Mary Kay Trio as well as scores of favorite radio and television performers.

Monday—Friday 7 p.m.



JACK NARZ

WHIRLS THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE IN THE DILEMMA OF THE

SEVEN KEYS



ANTHONY SHOES EXTENDS WITH THESE CHRISTMAS VALUES

FOR THE CHILDREN
Red Goose Shoes
For Young Hearts Illustrated, Priced at \$6.99



ANTHONY SHOES

In North Torrance Shopping Center
BETWEEN SAV-ON AND FOOD GIANT
4868 W. 190th St. FR 1-9059

Home of the . . .

BONUS SAVING PLAN

★ CHARTERED & SUPERVISED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

★ ACCOUNTS INSURED TO \$10,000 EARNINGS PAID QUARTERLY

★ ACCOUNTS OPENED BY THE 10TH EARN FROM THE 1ST

Marina Federal Savings

MAIN OFFICE
8750 SOUTH SEPULVEDA BLVD. • WESTCHESTER • LOS ANGELES 45, CALIF. • Orchard 0-0150 • Spring 6-0990

PENINSULA OFFICE
22200 HAWTHORNE BLVD. • DEL AMO • TORRANCE, CALIF. • Frontier 8-1226

TO SAVERS WHO AGREE TO ESTABLISH A SAVINGS PROGRAM ON A SYSTEMATIC BASIS (WITH ADDITIONS WEEKLY, MONTHLY OR ANNUALLY) WE CAN OFFER A BONUS EARNING OF UP TO 1% MORE PER ANNUM. WE INVITE YOU TO SEND FOR A FREE FOLDER EXPLAINING IN DETAIL THE ADVANTAGES OF THIS POPULAR SAVINGS PLAN.

CURRENT ANNUAL RATE **4 1/2%**

UP TO **1% BONUS**